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Hereas Mr. *John Houghton*, Citizen and Fellow of the ROYAL SOCIETY of London, hath published Three Volumes of Collections for Improvement of Husbandry and Trade; and before he Undertook the last Volume, after a Mature Consideration, Inquisition and Consultation receiv'd from his good Friends the Testimonial following.

November 11. 1691.

These are to testify our Knowledge of the approv'd Abilities and Industry of Mr. JOHN HOUGHTON, Citizen of London, and Fellow of the ROYAL SOCIETY there, in the Discovery and Collection of Matters worthy Observation, and more particularly such as relate to the Improvement of Husbandry and Trade. Towards his furtherance wherein, and in his laudable Inclination already experienced, and now further design'd, to the communicating the Effects thereof to the Publick; We do hereby most willingly give him this Testimony of our Knowledge and Esteem, in order to the recommending him to the Notice, Assistance, and Encouragement of all Gentlemen and others, desirous of promoting the Endeavours of a Person so qualify'd and dispos'd to the Service of his Country.

And this was Subscribed by

Sir Robert Southwell.
Sir Thomas Meres.
Sir John Hoskins.
Sir Peter Pett.
Sir Anthony Deane.
John Evelin, Esq;
Thomas Henshaw, Esq;
Abraham Hill, Esq;
Samuel Pepys, Esq;
John Creed, Esq;

Dr. Thomas Gale.
Dr. John Scott.
Dr. Robert Plot.
Dr. Daniel Coxe.
Dr. Nehemiah Grew.
Dr. Edward Tyson.
Dr. Frederick Slare.
Dr. Robert Pitt.
Dr. Hans Sloane.
Dr. Hugh Chamberlen.

William Hewer, Esq;
Henry Whistler, Esq;
Alexander Pitfield, Esq;
Richard Waller, Esq;
Edward Haynes, Esq;
Mr. Thomas Langham.
Mr. Francis Lodwick.
Mr. Edmund Hally.

In Consequence hereof Twenty Four Papers or Numbers (which make the Volume) were published and sold at Two Pence each, and (although every hard word was explain'd) yet they being Philosophical, (as Treating chiefly of the Nature and Qualities of Earth, Water, Air, and Fire, not after the manner of the Ancients, but yet as Introductory to most useful Knowledge,) and their publication continuing only the Three Spring Months, when there was no Parliament, they had the ill Fortune to be but little known; and the Vulgar Reader would not give Two Pence for a Single Paper, that (at first sight) they thought they should not understand. ~~wherefore~~ learning his Charge by this Experience, which he could not otherwise compute; and finding it would run to well nigh Two Hundred Pound a Year, he was loth by an over-hazardous prosecution of his Attempt to expose himself to farther Loss; notwithstanding he be as Zealous for the Service of his Country, as any Prudent Man can be: ~~wherefore~~ if according to the Desire of divers Learned Men, and others of good Understanding in Husbandry and Trade, who have declared their Approbation of the Usefulness and Benefit of this Undertaking, he shall proceed in it, It must be by having some Encouragement from Persons wishing well to such Endeavours for the Advantage of their Country.

The premises considered, each of us whose Names are underwritten; have given, and do promise yearly to continue to the said Houghton the Sum underwritten; provided he shall (when not hindered by Extraordinary Occasions) publish at least once a Week, and for a Penny apiece, such Collections as he formerly used to do, Treating of the Improvements of Husbandry and Trade, the Prices of Cornall over England, &c.

Witness our Hands,

the premises considered we do give only
as follows:

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[illegible]

Winnipeg, Man. B.C.

[illegible]

HOWARD, Philip in the Year 1844.

